

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L

ASTORIA, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1899

NO. 175

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Pancake Flour,
Whole Wheat Flour,
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FROM INDIA TO AFRICA

Four Regiments Will Leave Bombay to Reinforce Buller.

ROBERTS IS FREE-HANDED

Buller is Reported to Have Forced the Tugela—Strong Anti-English Sentiment at Hague.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The War office has been in communication with General William Lockhart, commander-in-chief in India, with the view of ascertaining what troops can be spared from his forces and it is understood that as a result of these inquiries a force will almost immediately leave Bombay for Durban, including four regiments of seasoned troops, with an ammunition column and a brigade of artillery. It is hoped the force will reinforce General Buller within a month.

Lord Chesham, the commanding officer of the Royal Birminghamshire yeomanry, has been authorized to organize a force of 2,000 yeomanry who will proceed to the Cape.

Throughout the country volunteers are responding with the utmost alacrity to the official notices. The Times says editorially:

"Lord Roberts will have absolutely a free hand and may be expected to assume the original plan of campaign abandoned by General Buller under the necessity of restoring Ladysmith."

J. B. Robinson, a South African millionaire, writes to the Daily Chronicle reassuring that the Boers have unlimited supplies of ammunition and ample stores of food and declaring that all statements to the contrary should be ignored.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Daily Mail bears from a hitherto reliable correspondent that General Buller, after a stiff fight, has crossed Tugela river. This correspondent also states that General Methuen's communications are cut.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Daily Mail publishes the following dispatch from Antwerp:

"The British and American ministers at The Hague have asked permission to return to Antwerp, with the view of avoiding personal unpleasantness during the anti-English attitude of the Dutch."

NO REFLECTION ON BULLER

Roberts Appointed to South Africa in Consequence of the Increased Size of the Forces.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—"Bob," as Lord Roberts of Kandahar is familiarly known, is a name to conjure with in Great Britain, and that Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener are considered the right men to retrieve the disastrous situation in South Africa, is neatly evidenced by the more cheery tone of all the war discussions this morning. In spite of the attempts of the authorities to gloss over the supercession of General Buller, the fact remains that now the appointments can not be regarded otherwise than a penalty for his failure. A semi-official communiqué says:

"The disposition to regard the change as a reflection on Buller is entirely erroneous. As the forces engaged in South Africa increase, officers of higher rank are naturally appointed to supreme command."

The communiqué then instances the successive steps from General Symons to Generals White and Buller and now to General Roberts. In spite of the plausibility of the argument, everyone recognises that it is not the whole truth. Friends of Buller say in the headlong plunge of the column, a species of panic, and they picture hasty conclaves and ministers with blanched faces, telegraphing to Roberts and Kitchener to come and save the empire.

While perhaps these are overdrawn, there is no denying that the prodigious exertion which the government considers necessary to crush the two little republics shows that even the sedate Lord Salisbury sees the extreme gravity of the present aspect of affairs. Probably the ministers remembered the peri which the public seem to have forgotten, of possible uprising of the Kaffers. Indeed, unpleasant rumors are already current in this direction, which would be infinitely more serious than the rebellion of the Dutch.

DEATH LIST GROWING.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The war office this evening posted a revised list of casualties in the battle of Magersfontein, giving 51 additional killed.

MORE CANADIANS GOING.

OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—The imperial government has accepted the offer of the Dominion government to send a second contingent to the Transvaal.

ENGLAND IS UNEASY.

Continental nations are believed to meditate some interference in the Transvaal.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—A dispatch

to the World from London, says:

There is no alleviation of the gloom and strife caused by General Buller's reverse. The British forces in India cannot be further depleted by drafts for South Africa while threatened trouble from Mysore, the Negus of Abyssinia and the possibility of complications along the Mediterranean renders the reduction of the garrisons in Egypt too risky, although General Kitchener is going to Lord Roberts as an chief of staff.

It is expected that the German navy may be used in conjunction with those of Russia and France to exert pressure to prevent reinforcements reaching South Africa. It is possible that in view of such a contingency immediate orders will be issued for the mobilization of the fleet reserves.

The British public is awaiting with the keenest apprehension the first indication of active hostility from continental enemies.

A reconstruction of the cabinet is eagerly discussed in political circles.

Many deem it imperative that its old and useless members, like Goschen, Chaplin and Cross, shall be sacrificed.

Lord Salisbury oppressed with public

and private cares and shaken in health, declared to the anxious to retire, but it is represented to him that his disappearance would inevitably cause a total collapse of the administration.

A dead set is being made against Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chancellor of the exchequer, on the ground of his alleged refusal to provide adequate funds for transportation in the earlier stages of the war. It is also suggested that Mr. Chamberlain's retirement may be forced by party pressure, confidence in him being completely shaken. Should the war continue much longer without a decisive British success the formation of a national coalition ministry is certain with Lord Rosebery as foreign minister and possibly Mr. Asquith as colonial secretary. Lord Salisbury retaining the premiership, but giving a proportion of the portfolios to the liberal party.

These and other rumors flying wildly around in the political clubs show how entirely the feeling that the empire is in danger is obliterating the most deeply marked party divisions.

ENGLAND WAS DECEIVED.

Boers Have Accumulated War Material for Years—They are Well Prepared.

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LONDON, Dec. 18.—M. De Long, the manager of the dynamite factory at Modderfontein, in the Transvaal, has just returned to France and has been interviewed by the representatives of several of the Paris journals. He says that the British government can have had no idea of the vast extent of the preparations that the Boers have been quietly making for years with the realization that another struggle with the full force of Great Britain was inevitable. Even should the Boers be driven out of Natal, he points out that no British army could ever hope to enter the Transvaal and survive.

Since the war began, he says, heavy artillery that had been carefully stored away has been brought forth.

He asserts that the forts at Pretoria and Johannesburg are as strong as any fortresses in the world and have within the last month been rendered absolutely impregnable while Edelberg alone could hold its own with twenty-five men against 1,000 assailants particularly in the rainy season which has just begun, causing formidable streams suddenly to spring into existence.

M. De Long states that there are about 6,000 well trained German volunteers in the Boer army who have not yet been allowed to go to the front. He adds that the governments of the Boer republics are showing a great economy of strength and have not yet used a third of their military resources.

CRISIS IS COMING.

United States Will Soon Have to Take a Position for or Against England.

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